(e) recovering a poinsettia plant from said embryo.

6. (Five Times Amended) A method for producing transgenic poinsettia plants, comprising:

(a) incubating a poinsettia plant tissue explant that produces a reddish epidermal callus on auxin- and cytokinin-containing callus induction medium to yield a reddish epidermal callus;

(b) culturing the reddish epidermal callus on embryo induction medium comprising casein hydrolysate and further comprising NH_4^+ and/or NO_3^- to form embryogenic callus;

(c)

(i) introducing an expression vector into said incubating embryogenic callus to produce transformed embryogenic callus, wherein said expression vector comprises a selectable marker gene and a second foreign gene, or

(ii) introducing two expression vectors into said incubating embryogenic callus to produce transformed embryogenic callus, wherein one of said expression vectors comprises a selectable marker gene, and wherein the second of said expression vectors comprises a second foreign gene;

wherein the vector or vectors of (c)(i) and (c)(ii) are introduced into the incubating embryogenic callus by co-incubating the callus with Agrobacterium tumefaciens containing the vector or vectors or by microprojectile-mediated delivery of the vector or vectors into the callus;

(d) culturing said transformed embryogenic callus on selection medium; followed by

(e) culturing said transformed embryogenic callus on developmental medium containing an osmotic pressure increasing agent to yield a transgenic embryo;

(f) culturing said transgenic embryo on maturation medium; and

(g) recovering a transgenic plant from said transgenic embryo.

39. (Six Times Amended) A method for producing transgenic poinsettia plants, comprising:

(a) incubating a poinsettia plant tissue explant that produces a reddish epidermal callus in auxin- and cytokinin-containing callus induction medium to yield an embryogenic callus;

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(b) subculturing the embryogenic callus to liquid NH_4^+ and/or NO_3^- containing embryo induction medium comprising casein hydrolysate;

(c) filtering the culture and culturing the filtrate in fresh liquid embryo induction medium; followed by

(d) filtering the culture and culturing the filtrate on solid embryo induction medium to yield an embryo;

(e) subculturing the embryo produced on said embryo induction medium to maturation medium; followed by

(f) culturing said embryo on callus induction medium to yield an epidermal callus;

(g) subculturing the epidermal callus produced on said callus induction medium to embryo induction medium to form an embryogenic callus;

(h)

(i) introducing an expression vector into said embryogenic callus to produce transformed embryogenic callus, wherein said expression vector comprises a selectable marker gene and a second foreign gene, or

(ii) introducing two expression vectors into said embryogenic callus to produce transformed embryogenic callus, wherein one of said expression vectors comprises a selectable marker gene, and wherein the second of said expression vectors comprises a second foreign gene;

wherein the vector or vectors of (h)(i) and (h)(ii) are introduced into the incubating embryogenic callus by co-incubating the callus with Agrobacterium tumefaciens containing the vector or vectors or by microprojectile-mediated delivery of the vector or vectors into the callus;

(i) culturing said transformed embryogenic callus on selection medium; followed by

(j) culturing said transformed embryogenic callus on developmental medium containing an osmotic pressure increasing agent to yield a transgenic embryo;

(k) culturing said transgenic embryo on maturation medium; and

(l) recovering a transgenic plant from said transgenic embryo.

80. (Amended) The transgenic poinsettia plant of claim 76, wherein said foreign gene confers resistance to a bacterium or a fungus and encodes a polypeptide selected from the group

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consisting of chitinase, a β-1,3-glucanase, ribosome-inactivating protein, lytic peptide, and plant defensin.

101. (Three Times Amended) A method for *in vitro* regeneration of poinsettia plants comprising:

(a) incubating a poinsettia plant tissue explant that produces an epidermal callus on auxin- and cytokinin-containing callus induction medium;

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(b) subculturing the reddish epidermal callus to embryo induction medium comprising a nitrogen source to form embryogenic callus;

(c) culturing said embryogenic callus on developmental medium containing an osmotic pressure increasing agent and cytokinin; followed by

(d) culturing said embryogenic callus on maturation medium to yield an embryo; and

(e) recovering a poinsettia plant from said embryo.

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102. (Four Times Amended) A method for producing transgenic poinsettia plants comprising the steps of:

(a) incubating a poinsettia plant tissue explant that produce epidermal callus on auxin- and cytokinin-containing callus induction medium to yield an embryogenic callus;

(b) subculturing the embryogenic callus to embryo induction medium comprising casein hydrolysate and further comprising NH_4^+ and/or NO_3^- to form an embryogenic callus containing embryos;

(c)

(i) introducing an expression vector into said incubating embryogenic callus to produce transformed embryogenic callus, wherein said expression vector comprises a selectable marker gene and a second foreign gene, or

(ii) introducing two expression vectors into said incubating embryogenic callus to produce transformed embryogenic callus, wherein one of said expression vectors comprises a selectable marker gene, and wherein the second of said expression vectors comprises a second foreign gene;

wherein the vector or vectors of (c)(i) and (c)(ii) are introduced into the incubating embryogenic callus by co-incubating the callus with Agrobacterium tumefaciens

containing the vector or vectors or by microprojectile-mediated delivery of the vector or vectors into the callus;

(d) culturing said transformed embryogenic callus containing embryos on selection medium; followed by

(e) culturing said embryogenic callus containing embryos on developmental medium containing an osmotic pressure increasing agent to yield a transgenic embryo;

(f) culturing said transgenic embryos on maturation medium; and

(g) recovering a transgenic plant from said transgenic embryos.

103. (Three Times Amended) A method for producing transgenic poinsettia plants comprising the steps of:

(a) incubating a poinsettia plant tissue explant that produces a epidermal callus on auxin- and cytokinin-containing callus induction medium to produce an embryogenic callus;

(b) subculturing the embryogenic callus produced on said callus induction medium to liquid embryo induction medium comprising casein hydrolysate and further comprising NH_4^+ and/or NO_3^-;

(c) filtering the culture and culturing the filtrate in fresh liquid embryo induction medium; followed by

(d) filtering the culture and culturing the filtrate on solid embryo induction medium to produce embryos;

(e) subculturing the embryos produced on said embryo induction medium to maturation medium; followed by

(f) culturing said embryos on callus induction medium to yield an embryogenic callus;

(g) subculturing the embryogenic callus produced on said callus induction medium to embryo induction medium to form an embryogenic callus containing embryos;

(h)

(i) introducing an expression vector into said incubating embryogenic callus to produce transformed embryogenic callus, wherein said expression vector comprises a selectable marker gene and a second foreign gene, or

(ii) introducing two expression vectors into said incubating embryogenic callus to produce transformed embryogenic callus, wherein one of said expression